**Regional Coalition Conference Call**

**Thursday, December 3, 2015 – 9:30 to 10:30 AM**

9: 30 AM

**Improving Medicare Benefits for Beneficiaries with Complex Care Needs**, Professor Karen Davis, Johns Hopkins University

PowerPoint presentation was attached to the email with the agenda

For a profile of Professor Davis, use this link:

<https://www.nasi.org/about/spotlight/karen-davis-0>

Here is the link to the issue brief by Marilyn Moon, Karen Davis, et al.

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2015/jul/serving-older-adults-complex-care-medicare?omnicid=CFC839501&mid=thomas@asahp.org>

Professor Davis: Interested in Community First Choice program and may be involved in a Maryland evaluation.

Turning to the paper on Medicare and persons with complex care needs:

* We are in need of a Medicare redesign – in order to meet people’s long term care needs.
* Fewer than one-third of Medicare beneficiaries are dually eligible for Medicaid.
* We need to redesign Medicare to support family caregivers and home and community based services.
* We are calling for a demonstration for those with complex care needs.
* Use of Health and Retirement Study is constrained but does give some useful data.
* 62 percent of those with complex needs are poor
* Particularly concerned with those spending 38.6 percent of income on out of pocket medical/social services: it’s the group of people who are below 200 percent of poverty
* About half of the expenses for this population are for long term care (as opposed to basic health care, dental care, and drugs)
* Those with complex care needs have more than twice the expenses of those without complex care needs
* The nation needs a long term care benefit – needs a share of cost
* See slides 11, 12, and 13 for recommendations
* Johns Hopkins University has a model it’s examining a home-care program for those with dementia
* How to design this model? We’re designing a complex care organization and would like to test it in demonstration

Discussion:

Brenda Schmitthenner: wants to be part of any work on this. For several years, San Diego has provided services to 40,000 people – and yet this program may end soon. Are you aware of any CMS conversations to continue such programs.

Prof Davis: It will probably will take new legislation to do this – there is potential for offsetting savings, but expanding home and community based services (HCBS) will be a net cost. It will make families’ situations better, but won’t save money. CMS won’t do this without legislative direction.

Brenda Schmitthenner: there is a grass roots effort to get federal legislation to direct CMS to work with home and community based service groups.

Debbie Case: Personal experience with parents in the mid-range of income. They don’t want to move out of their house, and the cost of many services is out of pocket.

Prof Davis: the problem is great for those above poverty. There needs to be a broader solution than Medicaid – which doesn’t reach 2/3rds of the population with complex care needs.

Debbie Case: what can we do to help?

Prof. Davis: This is an issue that hits all kinds of families of all political persuasions, so we believe it will have a sympathetic response in Congress. Would like to push for a major commitment to a demonstration.

In the Community First Choice experience in Maryland, we haven’t found an explosion of cost even though it provides payment for family members to care for a client. We need to answer the question of how much this approach will cost?

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Reflections on San Bernardino/Inland Regional Center

Renee Dar-Khan, Paul Van Doran, and Ben Jauregui spoke about knowing colleagues and family members who work for Inland Regional Center and for the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health. The hall where the shootings yesterday took place is the venue for frequent meetings of coalitions and other community groups. Everyone has personal experience there.

**Project Highlights:**

Ventura County Evidence Based Health Promotion Coalition (Sue Tatangelo reporting)

* Coalition came together to promote evidence-based services
* Sustainability has been the challenge. This past year, the coalition has sought and received special funding.
* Various funding sources have enabled training of facilitators. Check with Sue for more information about various funding opportunities.

Service and Advocacy Coalition (San Luis Obispo, Ventura, Santa Barbara)

Jenn Griffin reporting:

* Lots of changes within the coalition, with renewed focus on long term services and supports. Established an ADRC in Ventura – became the focus.
* Moving their office has also helped.
* Working with Sue Tatangelo’s coalition as well. Also working with Santa Barbara’s Adult and Aging Network – which has 30 partners.

San Diego LTC Integration Project (Brenda Schmitthenner, reporting):

* Started in 1999 with 50 stakeholders.
* Extensive focus on CCI – using a matrix to track activities and outcomes
* The Website is also beefed up with a web page on the CCI;
* Created a toolkit on the CCI
* Using tele-town halls to reach consumers
* Expanding ADRC from providing information and referral; now using 90 vendor contracts to reach out to improve access to HCBS – using Older Americans/Californians Act
* Question: Is San Diego documenting this journey, now 16 years in.
* Reply: somewhat via Internet – but not enough staff time to do a real history

**SCAN Foundation Update**

* Kali Peterson thanks everyone at the end of the two-year grant cycle.
* The TSF board of directors agrees, having approved another two-year grant cycle for the Community of Constituents.
* In 2016, we will continue the First Thursday conference call at 9:30, starting January 7. Please mark your calendars now.
* Revising the reporting requirements: they have been downsized to focus on scope of work and budget. There may be different reporting structures next year as well. Thank you for the feedback and recommendations on changes.
* The regional coalitions are a cornerstone of TSF’s work
* Planning committees for the various conferences will begin discussions soon

**The California Collaborative**

Discussion tomorrow (Friday) on new materials for the CCI from DHCS/Harbage Consulting: a tool kit for beneficiaries; comments due Dec. 11. (9:45 a.m.)

Also, on Dec. 11, a look at the CCI as well as at a national family caregiver project.

All are welcome to listen in to either discussion

Same call in number and PIN for these discussions as for the monthly regional coalition call: 866-215-3402 PIN: 896-217-9013

Notes:

The next calls, first Thursdays of the month, from 9:30 to 10:30:

* *January 7, 9:30 a.m.*
* *February 4, 9:30 a.m. – calls on the first Thursday of each month*

Agendas go out two days before each call. *Regional coalitions are welcome to include additional members on the calls, whenever topics are of interest.*

Participants:

Guest: Professor Karen Davis, Johns Hopkins University

Alameda County: Karen Grimsich, Tracy Murray

Orange County: Alejandra Rodriguez

San Francisco: Melissa McGee

San Diego: Brenda Schmitthenner and Louis Frick

Bay Area Senior Health Policy:

Riverside: Renee Dar-Khan, Martha Durbin, Paul Van Doren, Ben Jauregui

L.A.: Brandi Orton and Anwar Zoueihid, Vivian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Santa Clara: Mary Gloner.

Yolo: Pam Miller, Sheila Allen, and Fran Smith

Chico: Sarah May and Forest Harlan

Central Valley: Marlene Hubbell

Stanislaus: Erlinda Bourcier and Linda Lowe

Nevada County: Pam Miller and Ana Acton

Monterey Bay: Sam Trevino

Ventura County: Blair Craddock, Sue Tatangelo, and Monique Nowlin

San Mateo: Deborah Owdom, and Marilyn Baker-Venturini

Service and Advocacy: Jennifer Griffin, Barbara Finch, and Cheri Jasinski

Co. Co. Co.: Debbie Toth, Gerald Richards, Ella Jones, and Shirley Krohn

TSF: Kali Peterson and Craig Terasawa

GACI: Jack Hailey